



The THOREAU SOCIETY BULLETIN

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Concord Landfill to Close!

Shannon Strybel

[Editor's Note: In last year's spring number, we were delighted to announce that the Walden Woods Project had acquired the Brister's Hill property, which had been in danger of development for several years. This spring brings equally wonderful news: the Concord Landfill, the unsightly blemish across the highway from the Brister's Hill site and just down the road from Walden Pond, will be closed at the end of this year.

The closure of the Concord Landfill is a dream come true for many individuals and organizations, all of whom are to be congratulated for their vision, their hard work, and their persistence. Of particular note are the contributions and efforts of Thomas Blanding, Edmund Schofield, Vidar Jorgenson, Walter Brain, and the other officers and members, past and present, of the Thoreau Country Conservation Alliance; Karst Hoozeboom and his staff at the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management; Don Henley, Kathi Anderson, and the staff and members of the Walden Woods Project; Carolyn Flood and her fellow selectmen of the Town of Concord; and particularly the members of the Town of Concord's Landfill Task Force: John Eberle (chair), Theresa Cohen (vice-chair), Helen Bowdoin, Peter Farrow, Dean Hubbard (clerk), Richard Johnson, John Kessler, Tedd Osgood, Tim Rose, and Vivian Walworth.

The Thoreau Society is grateful to the members of the Landfill Task Force for their extensive assistance in the preparation and final review of the text for a full-page advertisement that appeared in the *Concord Journal* on 31 March 1994. Titled "Why It's Time to Close the Concord Landfill," the advertisement was paid for by the Society with funds from an anonymous donor. The Society is also grateful to the 250 or so supporters who joined us in signing the advertisement encouraging Concordians to vote in favor of closing the landfill, to Edmund Schofield and TCCA for their timely assistance, and especially to Helen Bowdoin for her remarkable efforts on our behalf.

The following article appeared under the title "Dump Set to Close in 1995" and is reprinted from the *Concord Journal* of 7 April 1994. We thank Helen Bowdoin for bringing this article to our attention and sending us a copy.]

By a unanimous voice vote, 435 residents attending Tuesday night's town meeting [Concord, 5 April 1994] said they wanted to close the Concord landfill.

After an hour-and-a-half of debate and presentations, Town meeting voted for Article 19, which asked that the town vote to finance the closing of the landfill. The article asked residents to approve the town borrowing \$400,000 to help the \$1.3 million cost of closing the dump. It also asked that voters approve the Board of Selectmen completing the sale or transfer of the landfill site to the commonwealth [of Massachusetts] and obtaining any

federal, state, or other aid for the project. The article was supported by many town boards and commissions, including the Board of Selectmen, the Natural Resources Commission, REUSIT, and the Planning Board.

In her presentation to the audience, Carolyn Flood, chairwoman of the Board of Selectmen, [said] the cost of closing the landfill will be financed through: approximately \$400,000 set aside in a town enterprise fund, a \$150,000 grant from the Walden Woods Project, the sale of an easement to the state for approximately \$250,000 to \$300,000, and borrowing up to \$400,000. Flood added that the town will also save approximately \$63,000 by using free clay from the Third Harbor Tunnel project to help cap the landfill.

Work on the landfill would occur in the summer of 1995, with the last ton of trash dropped off in November or December of 1994. The first payment on the debt is expected to [be] made in 1997, and annual payments are expected to be under \$100,000, according to Flood. If negotiations for funds from the state and Walden Woods [Project] fall through, the selectmen would search diligently for other means, and it is possible the landfill would remain open.

Once the landfill is closed, curbside collection of trash would continue, Flood said, but the waste will be transferred to a dump out of town. She added that residents could choose to contract through the town for either recycling pickup or for trash and recycling pickup. The dump would not have a transfer station.

The closed landfill is expected to be used by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management to support the work of the Walden Pond [State] Reservation, which the state manages. The DEM, which is currently getting an appraisal of the property, proposes to purchase an easement from the town to use the land for a maintenance facility, a composting operation, and a nursery. Concord would continue to own the land.

Jeffrey Eberle, chairman of the Landfill Task Force, which recommended closing of the landfill to the selectmen, [said that] keeping the landfill open would be penny wise and pound foolish.

"It is less of a financial risk to close it," said Eberle during his presentation. "During 1995 to 2000, there will be little or no difference to the taxpayer if the landfill stays open or closes. For the future, there is less risk with closure."

Stolen Thoreau Book Returned to Concord Museum

David Wood

The Concord Museum recently got back, after a fifty-one-year absence, an important volume of Hindu religious literature from Thoreau's library, the Sanskrit text of

Bhagavad-Gita, edited by J. Cockburn Thomson and printed in Hertford, England, in 1855.

In 1855, the English writer Thomas Cholmondeley (pronounced Chum-ly) sent to his friend Henry Thoreau forty-four volumes of Oriental philosophical and religious writings, which Thoreau called in his journal "a royal gift." Included in the gift was a new two-volume edition of the *Bhagavad-Gita*, a book Thoreau first read in 1846 while living at Walden Pond. Both volumes, the Sanskrit text and the English translation, are inscribed on the flyleaf in Thoreau's hand "Henry D. Thoreau from Thomas Cholmondeley."

**Books are the treasured
wealth of the world and
the fit inheritance of
generations and nations.**

"Reading," Walden

When Thoreau died in 1862, he bequeathed some of the Cholmondeley books to Ralph Waldo Emerson; the rest, including the *Bhagavad-Gita*, he willed to Bronson Alcott, the pioneering educator and member of the inner circle of the Transcendentalists who is best known as the father of Louisa May Alcott. Alcott noted the bequest on the title page of each volume: "A. Bronson Alcott from H.D. Thoreau." Alcott in turn gave the volumes to Frank Sanborn, Thoreau's first biographer. After his death, Sanborn's books were sold at auction, where Stephen Wakeman bought the *Bhagavad-Gita*. The two volumes made up lot 1072 of the Stephen Wakeman sale held on 24 April 1924. Boston book dealer Charles Goodspeed bought them and sold them to Edward Kittredge. Kittredge gave them to the Concord Antiquarian Society (now the Concord Museum) on the completion of its new building in 1930.

In 1942, the slimmer of the two blue-bound volumes, containing the Sanskrit text, was stolen from the Antiquarian Society. Fifty-one years later, a California collector informed the Museum that he had been offered the book, which, he knew from Walter Harding's 1983 checklist of the books in Thoreau's library, had been stolen. The book had apparently entered the library of Philadelphia philanthropist Joshua Bailey in the early 1950s and been sold at auction in the 1970s. The person offering the book for sale had bought it from a San Diego book dealer, who arranged the return of the volume to the Concord Museum.

Edward Kittredge, the donor of the volume to the Concord Antiquarian Society, prophesied its return in a letter to Society president Allen French dated 19 February 1942: "I feel sure the book will turn up some day and be restored to its proper place... Such a book cannot escape detection... A bibliomaniac saw it, could not resist, and, I hope, has kept it safe. In time, therefore, it should be recovered."

The book, along with its companion volume, is on exhibit in the Thoreau Gallery at the Concord Museum, 200 Lexington Road, Concord, Massachusetts.

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Walter Harding

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We are indebted to the following for information sent in for this bulletin: C. Adams, C. Burley, J. Butkis, N. Bauer, J. Dawson, B. Dean, P. Dooley, E. Fenander, M. Ferguson, M. Finley, R. Ganley, L. Gougeon, P. Huber, C. Jervis, E. Johnson, K. Kasegawa, A. Meredith, D. Mendelson, J. Moldenhauer, J. Myerson, M. Negus, S. Parish, D. Peck, L. Phillips, J. Porter, G. Ryan, M. Shanks, R. Stowell, H. Thomas, R. Thompson, F. Wagner, and R. Winslow. Please keep Walter Harding (19 Oak St., Geneseo, NY 14454) informed of items he has missed and new items as they appear.

Thoreau for the Defense: The Boardinghouse Trial

Wayne Wilson

[Editor's Note: The following article is reprinted from the *Sacramento Bee* of 15 July 1993. We are grateful to member Jack Barrett of Sacramento for sending us a copy of the article.]

MONTEREY—When people started dying at the Sacramento boardinghouse operated by Dorothea Puente, she couldn't afford to call the coroner, her attorney told a Monterey County jury Wednesday.

"Had any one of these deaths been reported, it would have shut down the computer [feeding government checks to Puente's address], and that would have eliminated her income," Kevin D. Clymo said as he wrapped up the defense summation.

Prosecutor John O'Mara was 3½ hours into his rebuttal when Superior Court Judge Michael J. Virga sent the jury home with instructions to return this morning for an eighth day of closing arguments.

Puente, 64, although bothered by a cold for the last week, appeared to be in good spirits and left the courtroom smiling at the close of the day.

The thrust of Clymo's final argument, punctuated by a Henry David Thoreau quote that seemed to one-up O'Mara's "trout in the milk" catch phrase of last week, is that the prosecution's "mother of all circumstantial cases" failed to meet its burden.

Clymo read to the jury excerpts from a January 4, 1860, journal entry written by Thoreau titled, "Murder Mystery: Rabbit, Fox, Owl."

In it, Thoreau recounts the tale of a rabbit killed and devoured in the woods and the assumption, based on tracks found at the site of the attack, that a fox was responsible.

As the story progresses, however, it becomes clear that "some great bird of prey" had struck the rabbit and was disturbed by the fox as it attempted to finish its meal.

"Though the circumstantial evidence against the fox was strong, I was mistaken . . . [yet] any jury would have convicted him," Clymo quoted Thoreau.

In the prosecution's closing argument last week, O'Mara had invoked Thoreau's journal entry of November 11, 1850: "Some circumstantial evidence is quite strong, as when you find a trout in the milk."

Clymo said the law requires the jury to favor Puente if it finds a rational, innocent explanation for the deaths and burials that occurred at 1426 F Street. He quoted the instruction that defines reasonable doubt: "A finding of guilt as to any crime may not be based on circumstantial evidence unless the proved circumstances are not only (1) consistent with the theory that Mrs. Puente is guilty of the crime, but (2) cannot be reconciled with any other rational conclusion."

"Also, if the circumstantial evidence . . . is susceptible to two reasonable interpretations . . . you must adopt that interpretation which points to Mrs. Puente's innocence and reject that interpretation which points to her guilt."

Clymo said the defense claim that one alleged victim committed suicide and that the other eight died of natural causes is rational when one considers the age and health of the nine people involved.

And he said the explanation that she didn't alert authorities because the well would run dry is "consistent with Dorothea Puente's personality" and is not unreasonable.

"I would ask you to, on each and every count, find Dorothea Montalvo Puente not guilty," Clymo stated. "Hold the prosecutor to his burden."

Another Handsome Donation from Professor Cameron

Kenneth Walter Cameron, Professor Emeritus of Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, recently donated to the Society ninety-one cartons of books and unbound signatures from the stock of Transcendental Books, a prolific publishing concern that he has operated for many years. Included in the donation are many volumes of *American Renaissance Literary Review* (ARLR), which he has edited for the past few years.

This is Cameron's second gift to the Society in recent years, the last being several dozen cartons containing back issues and offprints from the *Emerson Society Quarterly* and *American Transcendental Quarterly*, both periodicals that Cameron edited earlier in his long career and eventually turned over to other editors. After the last donation, the Society's Board of Directors voted unanimously to confer upon Professor Cameron an honorary life membership in the Society.

All of these materials are being carefully inventoried by Richard O'Connor of the Thoreau Lyceum, after which single copies of offprints, issues, and books will be deposited in the Society's archives in the Concord Free Public Library and in the Society's research library at the Thoreau Lyceum. All remaining copies will then be placed on sale to members at this coming summer's annual meeting. Items not sold during the annual meeting will be placed on a special list in the fall and will be sold by mail order to members and libraries.

The Society is extremely grateful to Professor Cameron for his generosity and support. We are also grateful to Wes Mott, chair of our Executive Committee, and two graduate students at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Alan Plante

and Matthew Thibodeau, for their help moving the ninety-one cartons from Professor Cameron's home in Hartford to the Lyceum in Concord.

The 1994 Annual Meeting

The Society's annual meeting this year will be held in Concord, Massachusetts, from Thursday afternoon, 7 July, to Monday morning, 11 July. Like last year, members will be able to enjoy a range of activities at the Thoreau Lyceum, the Concord Academy, the First Parish Church, the Concord Free Public Library, and other locations. All receptions and meetings at the Concord Academy this year will take place in large, air-conditioned rooms. Members from out of town will again be able to purchase lodging in the dormitories of the Concord Academy. At the Concord Academy's Faculty-Student Center, buffet-style breakfasts will be served each morning, and buffet-style dinners will be served each evening. (The conversations that took place at the large round dinner tables last year were well worth the price of the meals, and all diners agreed that the food was excellent.) And again this year there will be a reception each evening, with a cash bar and hors d'oeuvres, where members will be able to mingle and enjoy each other's conversation. (See the enclosed flyer for more details about prices and how to make reservations. Note that Concord-area members can pay for meals at the Thoreau Lyceum on Belknap Street.)

We are very excited this year to be able to co-sponsor, with the other organizations of the Concord Program, the address of Helen Nearing, the famous co-author (with her late husband, Scott Nearing) of many popular books, including *Living the Good Life* and *Continuing the Good Life*. Ms. Nearing will speak on "Thoreau: Then and Now" in the First Parish Church's main hall at 7:30 p.m., Friday, 8 July. The Society will co-host a reception for Ms. Nearing in the Church's vestry immediately after the address.

The Society's annual business meeting will begin at 9:45 a.m. on Saturday, 9 July, in the main hall of Concord's First Parish Church. One of the orders of business will be the adoption of the proposed new by-laws, which were printed in full in the last bulletin. An affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members present in person or in proxy at the annual meeting is required to adopt the proposed by-laws. The Board of Directors, which voted unanimously at its meeting last year in favor of the proposed by-laws, strongly encourages members to cast their vote on this important issue. Unless you are very sure that you will attend this year's annual meeting, please take a moment to fill out your ballot and return it to the Thoreau Society, Department of English, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858-4353 U.S.A. Proxies must be received before 6 July to be counted.

Robert Gross, chair of the American Studies Program at The College of William and Mary and author of the award-winning book *The Minutemen and Their World*, will deliver the keynote address, "Young Men and Women of the Fairest Promise: Transcendentalism in Concord." Society president Joel Myerson will deliver the annual Presidential address on "The State of the Thoreau Society, 1994 and Beyond."

A catered luncheon will be served in the First Parish vestry following the business meeting. Following the unanimous vote of last year's diners, Molly Davidson, who catered last year's luncheon, will cater this year's as well.

Immediately following the luncheon, well-known Thoreau scholar Thomas Blanding will lead the annual Thoreau Quiz in the First Parish vestry, as he has for the past several years. (We are pleased to note that this year Ron Pesha, co-chair of our Program Committee, will provide a cordless microphone so that we will be able to hear the answers to the questions without straining our ears.)

At 2:30 p.m. Saturday, members will be able to attend one of three activities: (1) an open forum on the future of the Thoreau Society, moderated by Joel Myerson in the Concord Academy's MAC Meeting Room, (2) a panel discussion sponsored by the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society on "Emerson's Women," moderated by Ronald A. Bosco and with Phyllis Cole, Helen R. Deese, and Daniel L. Shealy as panelists, and (3) a tour, conducted by Society Archivist Marcia Moss, of the Thoreau treasures in the Concord Free Public Library. At 3:45 p.m. Saturday the open forum and panel discussion will break briefly so that members attending those functions will have an opportunity to join Marcia Moss on a second tour of the Thoreau treasures in the Concord Library at 4:00 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m. Saturday in the MAC Meeting Room the play *Mr. Emerson and Henry* will begin. Sunday at 7:00 a.m. Walter Harding will lead an interpretive walk at Walden Pond (carpool to leave from Concord Academy's lot at 6:40 a.m.), and that afternoon at 1:00 p.m. Thomas Blanding will lead a walking tour of Thoreau sites in and near Concord Center (gather at and embark from front steps of First Parish). The new Board of Directors will have its first meeting (by invitation only) at 2:00 p.m. Sunday in Room 202 of the Faculty-Student Center.

Remember to visit your Thoreau Lyceum on 156 Belknap Street while you are in town. Because of large donations during the past several months and a clearing out of duplicates from our archives, the Lyceum this year will have a plentiful supply of articles, periodicals, and used books on hand—including back issues of the bulletin, old Society booklets, and a variety of other difficult-to-locate items.

The Nominating Committee (Barbara Wojtusik, Chair, Ann Claveaux, Jonella Corpus) will offer the following slate at the annual meeting if the proposed by-laws are approved: Joel Myerson, president, two-year term; Eric Parkman Smith, treasurer, two-year term; Bradley P. Dean, secretary (clerk), two-year term; members of the Board of Directors (number fixed at thirteen by the Executive Committee), each for a two-year term: Kathi Anderson, Ken Basile, Bradley P. Dean, Robert Galvin, Joseph Gilbert, Jane Gordon, Ronald W. Hoag, Wesley T. Mott, Joel Myerson, Robert Sattelmeyer, Daniel L. Shealy, Eric Parkman Smith, Elizabeth H. Witherell; members of the Honorary Board of Directors: Thomas Blanding, Albert Bussewitz, Malcolm Ferguson, Wendell Glick, Walter Harding, John McAleer, Frederick McGill, Anne McGrath, Michael Meyer, Marcia Moss, Paul Oehser, Mary Sherwood, Eric Parkman Smith, W. Stephen Thomas, Frederick Wagner, Eugene Walker, Paul Williams, Ann Zwinger; members of the Nominating Committee, for terms of one, two, and three years, depending on the number of votes cast for each: Lawrence Buell, J. Parker Huber, Barbara Wojtusik. The Nominating Committee will offer the following slate at the annual meeting if the proposed by-laws are not approved: Joel Myerson, president, one-year term; Eric Parkman Smith, treasurer, one-year term; Bradley P. Dean, secretary, one-year term; Wesley T. Mott, Chair of the Executive Committee, one-year term; members to the Board of Directors, each for a three-year term: Kathi Anderson and Joseph Gilbert; members of the Nominating Committee, each for a one-year term: Lawrence Buell, J. Parker Huber, Barbara Wojtusik.

Society Seeks Executive Director

[Editor's Note: The Executive Committee has instructed Joseph Gilbert, Society member and Vice President of Administration at Salisbury State University in Salisbury, Maryland, to run the advertisement below in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*, *Aviso* (American Association of Museums), *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, and *Boston Globe*. Society members are, of course, encouraged to apply for the position if they are interested.]

Executive Director: The Thoreau Society, a Concord, Massachusetts-based, fifty-year-old, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the advancement and philosophy of Henry David Thoreau and his writings, seeks applicants for the position of Executive Director of the Society. Responsibilities include daily operation of the Society and its properties; development, care, and display of the Society's collections; membership development, grant writing, and fund raising; development of educational programs; sales and merchandising of books and memorabilia; representing Society to the public; and coordinating Board meetings and Society's annual meeting. Salary commensurate with professional experience and credentials; housing option negotiable. Candidates should respond with letter of interest and a detailed résumé, including at least three references and salary history, to: Joseph Gilbert, Vice President of Administration, Salisbury State University, Salisbury, Maryland 21801. An affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer.

A Sesquicentennial Celebration of Thoreau's Greylock Ascent

The Appalachian Mountain Club, Berkshire Natural Resources Council, and Berkshire County Historical Society have joined together and planned a celebration of Thoreau's 1844 ascent of Mount Greylock, a trip commemorated in *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*. The celebration will take place on Saturday, 23 July 1994. There will be hikes up Greylock, the highest point in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and an evening program at historic Bascom Lodge, which is located atop the mountain. The program will include dinner at 6:00 p.m., remarks on Thoreau by Williams College professor emeritus Don C. Gifford, and a fireside singalong led by Deborah Burns.

Due to space limitations, reservations are required to participate in any of the day's events. For more information, to make reservations, or to reserve commemorative T-shirts (\$16, 100% cotton, white with black logo, L and XL only), write Thoreau Hike, c/o BNRC, 20 Bank Row, Pittsfield, MA 01201; tel: 413-499-0596; fax: 413-499-3924. Reservations for the Bascom Lodge dinner must be made in advance by calling Jean Cowhig of the Appalachian Mountain Club at 413-443-0011. Limited overnight accommodations at the Lodge are available by calling Ms. Cowhig at the same number.

The celebration on 23 July will begin with guided tours to the summit of Mount Greylock during the course of the day. Hikers will ascend the mountain via the Bellows Pipe Trail, which closely approximates Thoreau's route. The hike is strenuous and will be held rain or shine.

Participants should wear sturdy footgear, bring water and snacks, and come prepared for the weather. The climb should take about three hours, including breaks for nature study and readings from Thoreau's account of the climb. Two hikes have been scheduled, one for the morning and the other for the afternoon. The morning party will leave at 10:00 a.m.; the afternoon party will leave at 1:00 p.m. Those participating in the morning walk should assemble either at the Rockwell Road Visitor's Center at 9:00 a.m. or at Bascom Lodge at 9:30 a.m. Participants in the afternoon walk should assemble at the Visitor's Center at noon or at the Lodge at 12:30 p.m. Light refreshments and commemorative gifts will be provided to all hikers at the summit.

No E-Mail from Walden

Bill Henderson

[Editor's Note: The following article is reprinted from the *New York Times* of 16 March 1994, which notes that "Bill Henderson is a director of the Lead Pencil Club, a subsidiary of the Pushcart Press publishing house."]

WAINSCOTT, L[ONG] I[SLAND]

Driven by our obsession to compete, we have embraced the electronic god with a frenzy. Soon, blessed with fax, voice-and E-mail, computer hookups and TVs with hundreds of channels, we won't have to leave our lonely rooms—not to write a check, work, visit, shop, exercise, or make love. We will have raced at incredible speeds to reach our final destination—nothing.

Henry David Thoreau said it first in 1849: "We are in great haste to construct a magnetic telegraph from Maine to Texas, but Maine and Texas, it may be, have nothing important to communicate... We are eager to tunnel under the Atlantic and bring the Old World some weeks nearer to the New, but perchance the first news that will leak through into the broad, flapping American ear will be that the Princess Adelaide has the whooping cough."

Thoreau wrote this statement with a pencil he made himself. (He worked with his father, John Thoreau, founder of the first quality pencil manufacturer in America.) Here are other things he had to say about the information superhighway of his day:

So with a kindred "modern improvements"; there is an illusion about them; there is not always a positive advance. The devil goes on exacting compound interest to the last for his early share and numerous succeeding investments in them. Our inventions are wont to be pretty toys, which distract our attention from serious things. They are but improved means to an unimproved end.

Walden

After all, the man whose horse trots a mile a minute does not carry the most important messages; he is not an evangelist, nor does he come round eating locusts and wild honey.

Walden

It is said that knowledge is a power and the like... What is most of our boasted so-called knowledge but a conceit that we know something, which robs us of the advantages of our actual ignorance.

Journal, 1851

If I am to be a thoroughfare, I prefer that it be of the mountain brooks, the Parnassian streams.

"Life without Principle"

Ray E. Parmenter: In Memoriam

The Archives Committee

Ray E. Parmenter of Wrentham, Massachusetts, a long-time member of the Thoreau Society and a generous donor to its archives, died on 5 November 1993. In 1989 Mr. Parmenter and his wife Elizabeth donated to the Society a large collection of manuscripts and memorabilia which had descended to them from Thoreau's New Bedford friend and correspondent, Daniel Ricketson.

For twenty-four years Mr. Parmenter taught English courses, especially American Literature, at Dean Junior College in Franklin, Massachusetts. "I contend annually with Thoreau and with all the Concordians," he once wrote a friend. For a time he was head of the English Department and in 1984 was named "Teacher of the Year." Mr. Parmenter retired in 1986 and moved from the old family farm in Franklin to nearby Wrentham. After his retirement someone asked him what his philosophy of life was. "Existential Transcendentalism," was his wry reply.

The Parmenters acquired the Ricketson papers, enough to fill several large boxes, in the 1970s from Mrs. Parmenter's aunt, Anna Roth, and her friend, Margaret Crane, who in turn had received them from Daniel Ricketson's granddaughter, Edith Guerrier. (Miss Crane had served as assistant to Miss Guerrier when she was adjunct librarian for the Boston Public Library in the 1930s and 40s.) Almost immediately the Parmenters began to open their collection to scholars. When one beneficiary thanked him for his generosity, Mr. Parmenter said, "The reward is in your pleasure." In 1983 the Parmenters placed their Ricketson collection on deposit loan in the Thoreau Society Archives for the convenience of researchers, and the next year an exhibition of the collection was mounted at the Thoreau Lyceum. Pleased with the prospect of the papers being housed in the Concord Free Public Library, the Parmenters gave them outright to the Thoreau Society in 1989. Among the treasures are previously unpublished letters from Ricketson to Thoreau and his sister Sophia, correspondence with well-known writers and reformers of the day, hundreds of pages from Ricketson's diaries, and poems and reminiscences in tribute to Ricketson's Transcendentalist friends.

Thanks to the foresight and generosity of the Parmenters, this impressive collection of manuscripts, printed items, and memorabilia will greatly enrich the research of generations of Thoreau scholars. We are deeply grateful to them, and we sympathize with them in their loss, which is our loss as well. Mr. Parmenter's family has asked that donations in his memory be made to the Thoreau Society, 156 Belknap Street, Concord, MA 01742.

A New Thoreau Obituary

Richard E. Winslow III

[Editor's Note: We are grateful to Mr. Winslow for continuing to share the fruits of his research with us. The following obituary appeared in the *Salem* (Massachusetts) *Observer* on 10 May 1862, p. 2, col. 1.]

DEATH OF HENRY D. THOREAU. We regret to notice the death of this charming writer at Concord on Wednesday. The

[Boston] Transcript remarks that his disease was consumption, and his last hours were among the calmest of his life. Thus has passed away one of the most original thinkers our country has produced. His works will always be read with profound attention, as no man ever lived closer to Nature, and reported her secrets more eloquently. His "Walden" and "Week on the Concord River" [sic] are striking marks of his genius. A writer [Amos Bronson Alcott] in the April "Atlantic Monthly," in an article called "The Forester," gives a fine estimate of the rich qualities of his mind, and now that the "white-winged reaper" has come to bear him hence, that paper will be studied with new interest. Henry Thoreau's place in American literature is among the best.

A Lost Week

Malcolm Ferguson

Some years ago a first edition of Thoreau's *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers* was given to the Thoreau Lyceum for its research library. This was a rebound ex-library copy "Discarded from Saint John's Seminary Library" and was donated by Father John E. Gallagher. Unfortunately, the book was subsequently stolen from the Lyceum's library.

While the Society does have fine association copies of *A Week*, this copy was particularly useful in the Lyceum's working collection because page references are often keyed to the first edition. Needless to say, the Society would deeply appreciate the return of this valuable volume. Other institutions, including the Concord Free Public Library and the Concord Museum, have recently had such lost items returned to them (see story above). We hope that a similar good fortune will be ours, and we encourage anyone with information about the missing volume to contact any officer of the Society.

Fall Appeal Donors

The Society is grateful to the following seventy-nine members for their generosity in responding to our Fall 1993 financial appeal, which generated donations totalling \$4,396:

Donors of up to \$49: James M. Alton, William Apt, Roger Asselineau, Michael Berger, Andree Berlin, Robert J. Bicknell, August B. Black, Paul T. Bryant, Nicholas V. Bulzacchelli, Clarence A. Burley, Richard Conarroe, Madelyn DeGaetano, Sterling F. Delano, E. Otis Dyer, Laraine Fergenson, Alfred J. Gaglio, Suzanne W. Gerry, Rosalyn L. Gittleman, Deborah W. Greeley, John P. Grillo, Dana F. Higgins, J. Parker Huber, Kenneth Hunkins, Richard Jones, Koh Kasegawa, Michael L. King, John F. Kiser, Barry Kritzberg, Lauriat Lane, Charles L. Lewellen, Clarence C. Loomis, Robin M. McNallie, Milton Meltzer, Donna Mendelson, Thomas E. Mesetz, Alex W. Moore, Chritoshi Motoyama, Ryan A. Nesbitt, Izumi Ogura, Robert M. Peterson, Barbara Robinson, J. Stephen Sherwin, James O. Smith, James K. Somerville, and Anzai Yoshimi.

Donors of \$50 to \$99: Alexander Armstrong, Robert Earl Boyd III, Julia E. Damkoehler, Susan L. Danahy, Bradley P. Dean, Elsa Denis, Linda Egendorf, Kenneth E. Harris, Ronald W. Hoag, Helen MacGregor, Frederick T.

McGill, Jr., Michael Meyer, Mark Shanks, Nancy C. Simmons, Fay L. Smith, Susan Sutton Smith, Yusong Sohn, Susan C. Tucker, Francois Vaillant, and Ann H. Zwinger.

Donors of \$100 to \$199: David B. Dean, Helen R. Deese, Albert D. Ehrenfried, Terry Freund, Marjorie L. Garrard, Richard W. Jackson, Donald H. Meyer, Andrew C. Smith, Harmon D. Smith, and Jeffrey H. White.

Donors of \$200 to \$499: John Ward Phelps and Frederick R. Wagner.

Donors of \$500 and over: Charlotte G. Adams and Carol Bernstein Ferry.

I Discover Thoreau

David Fuller

I did not discover Thoreau as an undergraduate, but I did read *Walden* in a large, gray anthology. I was hardly in the frame of mind to read the assignment (roughly pages 1200 to 1400) as reservedly as Thoreau had written the words. Rather, I read quickly and superficially to fulfill an assignment for a survey course. While my instructor pointed to the prominent symbols in the text and described Thoreau's "place" in literary history, I had neither the ability nor the motivation for truly discovering Thoreau.

Years later in graduate school I re-read *Walden*, this time not in an anthology, and then read it again. My new-found excitement for Thoreau led me to his other writings and to scholarship and eventually to teaching *Walden* in my own survey courses. My discovery of Thoreau occurred when I got to the point of knowing how to appreciate what it means to live deliberately and to front those so-called essential facts of life.

The point of all this is that my discovery depended in large measure on the real connection I could eventually form with the sense of Thoreau. My discoveries of Thoreau continue, and I see it as my responsibility as a teacher to help my students make that connection and make that discovery—an aim that we know Thoreau himself sought in his own classroom.

A few years ago a biology colleague and I led a group of students to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in northern Minnesota. The travel-study course was entitled "Thoreau and the Wilderness Experience" and required the students to read *The Maine Woods* and *Walden*, and accompany us on a ten-day canoe trip. Following the trip, the participants were asked to write an essay reflecting on the experience of the reading and trip. I was pleased to see in those essays that the participants made genuine connections between Thoreau and the wilderness experience. It was apparent that they had truly discovered Thoreau and knew what Thoreau meant by the "tonic of wildness."

Preserving Estabrook Woods

Carol Dwyer

Estabrook Woods was one of the three great wild tracts in Concord in the mid-nineteenth century, with Walden Woods and the tract along the Old Marlborough Road being

the other two. Thoreau walked in Estabrook Woods frequently, and the names of special sites in the woods appear again and again in his journal: Calla Swamp, Curly Pate Hill, the Boulder Field, Oak Meadow, Stedman Buttrick's Red Maple Swamp, Cornus Florida Ravine, and the Hog Pasture. In his journal entry of 20 October 1857, Thoreau wrote of the Estabrook Woods, "What a wild and rich domain that Estabrook Country! Not a cultivated, hardly a cultivatable field in it, and yet it delights all natural persons, and feeds more still. Such great rocky and moist tracts, which daunt the farmer, are reckoned as unimproved land, and therefore worth but little; but think of the miles of huckleberries, and of barberries, and of wild apples."

Unfortunately, this important tract of woodland is now threatened with development. The Board of Trustees of Middlesex School proposes to build an East Campus on lands owned by the school in the Estabrook Woods abutting their campus on Lowell Road. They plan to fill portions of the run-off from Calla Swamp for a loop road at two locations, excavate Curly Pate Hill and construct two terraces for playing fields, construct eight tennis courts on a knoll that is surrounded by wetlands, and build six faculty housing units and a sixty-car parking lot.

On 20 January 1994, 846 citizens signed a full-page advertisement in the *Concord Journal* calling on the Middlesex School's Trustees "to honor your responsibilities as stewards of lands which are important natural and historic resources in our communities and nationally." Among those signing the advertisement were 145 students of Middlesex School. Although concern about the proposed development has been featured on the local news and in many letters to the editors of local newspapers, the plans are proceeding. Little time is left, and we must all act quickly if we are to preserve this important resource.

To register your opposition to the plan, please write James Oates, Chairman of the Board, Middlesex School, 51 Spooner Road, Chestnut Hill, MA 02167. You can also write to the Governor of Massachusetts, William Weld, an alumnus of Middlesex School, at the State House, Boston, MA 02203. Petitions to Governor Weld are being circulated in and around Concord, and I am pleased to report that several officers of the Thoreau Society were able to sign the petitions during a recent visit to Concord. I urge other members of the Society to get involved quickly in the fight to save Thoreau's Estabrook Woods. For more information on this very important issue, please call or fax me, Carol Dwyer, at (508) 369-1162. Thank you.

Mary Ball Saunders's Recollection Of Thoreau

Walter Harding

[Editor's Note: Among the many miscellaneous papers in the Concord Free Public Library is one entitled "Personal Recollections of Concord of Seventy-Five Years Ago" by Mary Ball Saunders. Mary-Brooks Ball was born in Concord on 24 July 1822, the daughter of Nehemiah and Mary Ball. On 18 September 1849, Mary married Charles H. Saunders of Cambridge. Nehemiah Ball was the member of the Concord school committee who insisted that Thoreau use corporal punishment while teaching at the Concord grammar school and thus brought about Thoreau's resignation. Interestingly enough, as we shall see, Nehemiah Ball nonetheless enrolled his daughter in

Thoreau's private school! Mary's paper was dictated to her daughter, Caroline Saunders, to be read at "Club Meeting" on 19 November 1912. Although it contains further reminiscences of the Alcotts, the Hawthornes, and the Emersons, we include only the Thoreau portions herein. We are grateful to the Concord Free Public Library for permission to publish this excerpt.]

When I was 16 years old I attended the school of Henry Thoreau. He had graduated from Harvard and at the time of my attendance had six scholars—George Frisbie Hoar, afterwards Senator Hoar, George Brooks later Judge Brooks of Concord, Gorham Bartlett and his sister Martha, Albert Bridges, a young man boarding in town[,] and myself. The four boys were preparing for college and entered together. We sat on benches as the custom then was before a row of temporary desks. I studied French, Greek, Latin and German with him. He was a fine teacher[,] a man of real culture who cared for the society of books rather than of people and as is well known planned his life along original if somewhat impracticable lines. A notable example of this was his self-inflicted martyrdom in going to jail rather than pay taxes, a form of tribute of which he disapproved. In manner of talking he was a close though perhaps unconscious imitator of Mr. Emerson[,] the intimate and greatly admired friend. Thoreau's fond mother preferred to think that Mr. Emerson imitated Henry but such was not the popular opinion.

The Curator's Corner

Anne McGrath

Visitors to the Lyceum are almost invariably drawn to the bulletin board at the bottom of the stairs. No, it is not maps or pictures or notices of meetings that magnetize the eyes of the guests. It is Henry Thoreau's mail!

Amex Life Assurance Company says, "As a responsible citizen who has paid taxes all his life, he should be deeply concerned about the rising cost of health care." U.S. News says his subscription payment is overdue and service on his subscription has been placed on hold!

But wait, Henry, do not despair! Casual Male tells you to think big and tall, and they will provide you with the service you deserve.

Notes & Queries

Volunteers are needed to staff tables and perform similar chores at the annual meeting this summer—and, indeed, every summer. To help out and to encourage members to volunteer, each of the thirteen nominees for the Board of Directors have volunteered at least two hours of their time for this year's meeting. Please reciprocate their generosity by supporting the Society with a donation of your time. To volunteer, send a postcard or letter to—or telephone—the co-chair of the Program Committee, Ron Pesha, 46 Orville Street, Glen Falls, NY 12801; tel: (518) 793-1825.

Please note that the Archives Committee (Marcia Moss, Chair, Thomas Blanding, and Sandra Lower) has gone through our archives and culled out hundreds of duplicate items, such as copies of a variety of transcripts by

Raymond Adams from 1930 to 1974, the 1962 Oriole Press imprint of Bronson Alcott's memorial essay "The Forester," and dozens of copies of various Thoreau Society Booklets. As collectors know, most of these items are simply unavailable elsewhere. But this summer during the annual meeting of the Society, all these duplicate items will be placed on sale at the Thoreau Lyceum on 156 Belknap Street in Concord. Sales will be on a first-come, first-served basis beginning Friday, 8 July, and ending Sunday, 10 July.

Last December an exciting new group was formed in Concord: The Concord Program, which is "a coalition of public and private groups drawing together to strengthen the connections in Concord between nature and humankind, and to share the lessons learned with a local and national audience." The Thoreau Society is proud to be a member of The Concord Program and is grateful to Helen Bowdoin for ably and enthusiastically representing the Society at meetings of The Concord Program. For more information, write to The Concord Program, c/o 120 Meriam Road, Concord, MA 01742.

Every year on Arbor Day each of the approximately three hundred members of the Massachusetts Arborists Association donate a full day of work to a deserving locale, and this year the locale they chose was the Walden Woods. Their work was co-sponsored by the Walden Woods Project, the Walden Conservancy, and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management.

Thomas Blanding, past president of the Society and well-known Thoreau scholar, delivered a special lecture on "The Concord Pilgrimage" at the Trinitarian Congregational Church on Walden Street in Concord at 7:30 p.m. on 2 February 1994. Blanding's lecture "explore[d] the origins and early development of [the] Concord pilgrimage, the forces which shaped it, the patterns it assumed, and the legacy its heyday has left us."

The Society is grateful to Kathryn Chaisson of Athol, Massachusetts, for donating to our archives a copy of the June 1917 issue of *The Bookman*. Through the generosity of donors like Ms. Chaisson, the Society has been able to develop an extremely valuable and important archives.

From 18 May to 25 June 1994, there will be an exhibit of Tony Foster's "Wilderness Journeys: Watercolour Diaries from the Grand Canyon and Costa Rican Rainforest" at the Francesca Anderson Fine Art Gallery, 56 Adams Street, Lexington, Massachusetts. Plans are afoot to extend this exhibit through mid July so that Society members coming in from out of town for the annual meeting will have an opportunity to enjoy Foster's work. Many of our members will recall Foster's beautiful series of watercolor diaries from the Maine woods a few years ago.

The Society sponsored two sessions at this year's American Literature Association (ALA) annual conference at the Bahia Resort Hotel in San Diego, California (1-5 June). On 2 June from 4:00 to 5:20 p.m., Bradley P. Dean chaired a panel discussion on "Thoreau's Late Natural History Projects"; panel members were Ronald W. Hoag, Joseph J. Moldenhauer, Robert D. Richardson, Jr., and Robert Sattelmeyer. On 3 June from 12:00 to 12:50 p.m., the Society also sponsored a panel discussion chaired by Joel Myerson on "Teaching Thoreau and Melville"; panel members were John Bryant, Benjamin Franklin V., and Ronald A. Bosco.

Anyone interested in ordering a copy of *The Wilderness World of Anne LaBastille* can write to West of the Wind Publications, Inc., R.D. 2, Westport, NY 12993, USA; phone and fax: (518) 962-8295.

Since its release last October, the album *Common Threads: Songs of the Eagles* has sold well over 2.5 million copies and generated over \$2 million for the Walden Woods

Project (WWP). Each album is packaged with information about the mission of WWP and a statement noting that a portion of the royalties from the sale of the album is donated to WWP.

A recent *U.S. News & World Report* contained an article by a person who visited various vacation spots in New England, including Concord, about which the author wrote (in part): "Thoreau cabin replicas seem to be a minor local industry; there is one at the Walden Pond parking lot, another in the back yard of the lyceum (located in a tiny house on sleepy Belknap Street in Concord Center), and the lyceum's bookshop even sells cardboard fold-up models. At the lyceum, \$2 buys you a look at the replica cabin out back and a few odds and ends having something vaguely to do with Thoreau—and if you're not careful, a seat on a metal folding chair and a lecture about Thoreau. We took a sheepish look around the tiny room and the bookshop (Thoreau buttons, Thoreau portraits, iron-on "beware of all enterprises that require new clothes" patches, etc., etc.) and beat a hasty retreat. We later learned that the Concord Museum (on Route 2A, a few minutes' drive back toward Lexington) has a rather more interesting collection of Thoreauana."

Thoreau was writing *Walden* a hundred-fifty years ago."

Joseph Rubinfine, a dealer in historical manuscripts (tel: 407-659-7077), is offering the 140-page manuscript diary of a Concord citizen, apparently Timothy Prescott, from 1 April 1830 to 12 April 1840, price \$3,500. The diarist heard Emerson deliver the Phi Beta Kappa speech at Harvard College ("The American Scholar," 31 August 1837), heard "David H. Thorough" deliver his first lecture before the Concord Lyceum ("Society," 11 April 1837), recorded the death of Thoreau's aunt Elizabeth (15 November 1839), and attended a meeting of the Female Anti-Slavery Society at Thoreau's aunt Maria's house (30 March 1840). Rubinfine is also offering a manuscript fragment containing a portion of a draft of *The Dispersion of Seeds* for \$5,000.

In bulletin 204, page 7, we misidentified Charles H. Dunbar as Sophia Thoreau's cousin; actually, as several members have pointed out, he was her uncle.

Joseph Epstein, reviewing *The Columbia Dictionary of Quotations* in *Times Literary Supplement* on 10 December 1993, wrote of the book that it "is scrupulous in providing the provenance of its quotations as well as a bit of biographical information about the person quoted. It is only the people it chooses to quote about whom one might

All Walden wood might have been reserved, with Walden in the midst of it, and the Estabrook country, an uncultivated area of some four square miles in the north of the town, might have been our huckleberry field.

"Huckleberries"

In a mass mailing from Microsoft Corp. recently was a brochure with the following words writ large in the center of the cover: "A wise man will not go out of his way for information. —Thoreau." Writ not so large at the bottom of the cover were these words in decorative brackets: "So we'll make it easy for you —Microsoft."

J. Parker Huber writes to inform us of the deaths in April of long-time Society members Elliott S. Allison and Kathleen Perrin Allison, husband and wife naturalists-historians of Dublin, New Hampshire, which is located near Mt. Modnadnock. In addition to being authors of booklets on "Birds of Dublin" and "Dublin Wildflowers," the Allisons for many years taught environmental subjects to countless students at Dublin Consolidated School and during summers worked as camp counselors. For five years they worked as fire-watchers in Moultonboro, New Hampshire, living in a small cabin atop Red Hill. Mr. Allison later wrote an article about their experiences there titled "Thoreau's Disciple on Red Hill." A Dublin Garden Club plaque cited the Allisons' devotion to environmental education: "They have transmitted to our young an appreciation of natural beauty. They have awakened interests and stimulated powers of observation. Most of all, they have taught respect and responsibility for life around us."

In an article titled "Nature's See-Saw" (Land's End catalog, September 1993), the nature writer Edward Hoagland writes, "Vermont alone has perhaps a hundred thousand deer, and wild turkeys, reintroduced to the state in 1969, are nearly all over, so that, altogether, the New England region is richer in wildlife than when Henry David

register complaint. True, many of the writers who traditionally dominate dictionaries of quotation continue to dominate in the *Columbia Dictionary*: Shakespeare, Samuel Johnson, Lord Byron, Mark Twain, Oscar Wilde, George Bernard Shaw. Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau, quite as boring in their sententious quotations as in their books, score heavily here too. But the majority—the vast majority, one's guess is—of the more than 11,000 new quotations in this book come from people still alive."

Our president, Joel Myerson, who since 1977 has edited the highly regarded *Studies in the American Renaissance*, informs us that he will cease publication of that annual periodical with the 1996 volume.

Playwright Mark Finley has a one-man play, *Thoreau Tonight!*, that he would make available as a fundraiser at community theatres, schools, clubs, and so on. The price would be \$5.95, the first staging would be free, and subsequent performances would be \$5 each. For information contact Mark Finley, Martha's Vineyard Publishing, 58 College Road, Chestnut Hill, MA 02167; tel: (617) 332-3406.

A beautiful new full-page woodcut of Thoreau by Stephen Alcorn is included in Milton Meltzer's new *Lincoln in His Own Words* (New York: Harcourt Brace, 1993), p. 37.

A new vacation resort area in northern Ontario on the Trans-Canada Highway has been named "Walden." At 308 square miles, it is Canada's largest municipality. Although we have not been able to authenticate the fact, we have no doubt with its emphasis on nature activities but that it has been named after Thoreau's classic.

The Walden Woods Project (WWP) has continued its remarkable high-profile work of raising funds for the preservation of threatened sites around Walden Pond and keeping Thoreau's name before the public. On 29 April it sponsored a celebrity fund-raising event at the Dyanssen Gallery on Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills, California. The event was attended by many celebrities, including Don Henley, Kirsti Alley, Sally Field, Ray Liotta, Sidney Poitier, Donna Mills, Norman Lear, Rebecca DeMornay, and Whoopi Goldberg. On 13 June WWP will co-sponsor with Columbia Pictures the East Coast premier of *Wolf*, a new film starring Jack Nicholson and Michelle Pfeiffer, at the Park Plaza Hotel in Boston. Henley, Nicholson, and *Cheers* star Ted Danson will attend. For information about WWP, call toll free, (800) 554-3569.

Allan Bates's "How to Grow Beans," a monologue of readings from *Walden*, was presented at the Raven Theater in Chicago and received a favorable review in the *Chicago Reader* for 23 April 1993.

Charlotte Adams, long-time Society member and wife of the late Raymond Adams, our first president, recently received the Pauli Murray Human-Rights Award from the Orange County [North Carolina] Human Rights Commission for having made human rights a life-time achievement. Ms. Adams was nominated by a group she helped found in 1938, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. "If you knew Pauli Murray, you'd know I'm not in her class," explained Adams, an ebullient 91-year-old. "If you've lived so many thousands of years as I've lived, people just do [things] for you." Tan Schwab, vice president of WILPF, disagreed with her friend's humble claims of unworthiness. "Of course she deserves the award," Schwab said, chuckling. "She's just very modest. She does things because they need doing, not to get in the lime-light."

Arthur Ford, editor of Thoreau's poetry, has written *Mr. Emerson and Henry*, a play which has received a number of presentations in the Annville, Pennsylvania, area recently. The play will be presented to members of the Society who attend the annual meeting in Concord this summer. If the weather is pleasant, the play will be staged in the Concord Academy Chapel, just a few feet away from the Sudbury River. If the weather is hot and muggy, however, the play will be staged in the Academy's MAC Meeting Room.

Bob Thaves's syndicated cartoon "Frank and Ernest" for 21 July 1993 says, "People used to live lives of quiet desperation. Now they go on talk shows."

We recently received a copy of *Walden Ponderings*, the monthly newsletter of the Henry David Thoreau Society of Fountain Valley, California. According to an information sheet that came with the newsletter, "The Thoreau Society was founded in December 1991 by about 40 men and women who had met through the years in church and civic groups, and who wished to maintain a regular social and cultural contact through this new fellowship." They say that their society is "not a religious group" and is "not a political group"; the Society's members "are not students of Henry David Thoreau" and "are not in this for the money." They meet regularly in nearby Irvine, California. If you have any questions, they invite you to contact them by mail: 10898 El Mar Avenue, Fountain Valley, CA 92708. As a courtesy (they run on a short shoestring), you might include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Members staying at the Colonial Inn in Concord Center during the annual meeting this summer can get double-occupancy rooms for \$65 a night. Members staying at the Inn longer than two nights will get a 10% discount on meals taken in the Inn. Make reservations in advance by calling (800) 370-9200, and be sure to mention you are

a member of the Society and therefore eligible for the special rate.

The Thoreau Society of Japan held its Spring Convention on 20 May 1994 at Kumamoto Women's University. Makoto Rokugawa of Nagano Higher Technical College delivered the Opening Address, and Akiko Tokuzo of Tokyo Keizai delivered the Closing Address. Kazuo Shimizu of Sakushin Gakuin University chaired the General Meeting, and Yoshimi Anzai chaired the Closing Address. Yoko Sato of Nakamura Girls' High School spoke on "Thoreau's Concept of Philanthropy in *Walden*," Masami Nishimura of Fukuoka University spoke on "A Condemned Criminal and Thoreau," and Jinjaburo Nyui spoke on "The Quotation from a Translation of the *Gulistan* in *Walden*, Chapter 1."

Ed Stein, in a cartoon in the *Salisbury* (Maryland) *Times* for 15 July 1993, shows a couple camping, and while she is reading, "I never found the companion that was so companionable as solitude—Thoreau," he is shouting, "Hold it! Fax coming in."

Concord resident Bill Montague's new and very charming children's book *Little Mouse: The Mouse Who Lived with Henry David Thoreau at Walden Pond* has enjoyed excellent reviews and brisk sales. It is a wonderful introduction to Thoreau for young children and has recently been translated into Japanese. The book sells for \$7.95, and Montague donates \$1 from the sale of each book to the Walden Woods Project. To get a copy, send \$9.45, which includes shipping, to The Concord MouseTrap, 10 Walden Street, Concord, MA 01742. Include a note and ask Montague to autograph your copy.

Howard Mansfield's *In the Memory House* (Golden, Colo.: Fulcrum, 1993) ends with a visit to Walden Pond.

In Gary Snyder's *Myths & Texts* (New York: Totem Press, 1960), the first line of the first poem, "Logging," is "The morning star is not a star," and the last line of the last poem, "Burning," is "The sun is but a morning star." Obviously Snyder has been reading *Walden*. Also of note is Lee Bartlett's study of Snyder and other West Coast poets; the title is *The Sun Is But A Morning Star*.

Joseph J. Moldenhauer points out that the conservative humorist P.J. O'Rourke ("Up the Amazon," *Rolling Stone*, 25 November 1993, pp. 60-72; esp. pp 67-68, 72) blames the pastoral writers—starting with Theocritus and running through Virgil, Montaigne, Emerson, and Thoreau to Edward Abbey and John Denver—for the creation of Nature as an abstraction, for primitivist sentimentality about the countryside, and for the ecological movement. "Montaigne was a naff, and Rousseau a screwball. But it's Thoreau who's actually taught in schools. And it is into the wet, dense muck of *Walden* that Edward Abbey, Greenpeace, and the 10 loud women [eco-tourists whom O'Rourke encounters on his own uncomfortable eco-tour to an upper Amazon tributary] have dipped their wicks." Transcendentalism created "an entire secular religion"; Thoreau is "the worst sort of person in the world, the sanctimonious beatnik," the "source of all the loathsome self-righteousness" manifest in modern environmental enthusiasts. At Walden Pond Thoreau devoted his time "to being full of baloney," or "maybe he was on drugs." *Tu quoque?*

Successories, Inc., of Lombard, Illinois, has issued a frameable poster titled "Goals" and featuring the quotation from *Walden* about advancing confidently in the direction of your dreams. Call (800) 535-2773 for information.

The Conservationist, in its September 1993 issue (p. 2), has Thoreau writing *The Maine Woods* in 1864, two years after he died!

The current wine list at Henry David's restaurant in Keene, New Hampshire, which is in Thoreau's mother's

birthplace, gives a brief history of the Thoreau association with the building.

A notice of Thoreau's death appeared in the 9 May 1862 issue of the *Liberator*.

Although President Jimmy Carter often has spoken approvingly of Thoreau, in his *Outdoor Journal* (New York: Bantam, 1988, p. 10) he has this to say: "Thoreau's memoirs were fascinating and sometimes disturbing—he was against honest labor, seemed to have no religion, and favored civil disobedience."

A cartoon in the 14 February 1994 *Indianapolis Star* shows Clinton marching alone towards his health plan while everyone else is marching towards the Cooper health plan and calling to him, "Y'all must hear a different drummer."

A tree grown from a seed gathered from a tree in the woods around Walden Pond may now be ordered from American Forests for \$35; call (800) 264-6869.

Townsend Ludington's *Marsden Hartley* (Boston: Little Brown, 1992) has many references to the painter's interest in Thoreau.

According to Dorothy Herrman's *Anne Morrow Lindbergh: A Gift for Life* (New York: Ticknor & Fields, 1993, p. 291), Mrs. Lindbergh's publisher tried to persuade her to change the title of her book *Gift from the Sea* to *The Mass of Men Lead Lives of Quiet Desperation*!

Virginia's Public Education Electronic Network has arranged for Thoreau to answer questions from students about his life and work.

The Rand Corporation's 1994 calendar's October page is devoted to Thoreau and features a long quotation from him.

According to an article entitled "Stories on the Trail" (*Middlebury Magazine*, Autumn 1993), a course taught at the Breadloaf School of English this past summer involved hiking the 265 miles of the Long Trail and discussing along the way a number of books, which included Thoreau's *Walden* and *Maine Woods*.

According to John-Roger and Peter McWilliams' *Wealth 101*, a character named Moneylove says, "If he [Thoreau] had bought Walden Pond with real money, not 'simplicity and contentment,' and put it in a solid trust, not 'health and enjoyment,' maybe they wouldn't be trying to turn Walden Pond into Walden Condo City."

David Fuller of Aberdeen, South Dakota, and Julian D. Mason of Charlotte, North Carolina, both sent copies of a page from Chapel Hill Rare Books Catalogue 85 (1994) announcing the "Finest Known Copy of Thoreau's First Book," *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*. The copy is described this way: "Original publisher's gift binding of light brown cloth with sides blindstamped with a five-rule frame surrounding a rococo ornament. A fine, bright, partially unopened copy with only a hint of rubbing at the base of the spine. Enclosed in a custom green cloth clamshell box with leather spine label... The finest obtainable copy of this nineteenth century literary highspot." The asking price is \$16,000.

Cascade Holistic Economic Consultants of Oak Grove, Oregon, are issuing a new magazine on economic and environmental issues entitled *Different Drummer Magazine*.

Richard Winslow III has called to our attention that the *Eastern Argus* of Portland, Maine, for 15 January 1851, the day Thoreau lectured in Portland, commented, "Lecturers at Lyceums, when they repeat an anecdote, never should quote the profanity contained in it. Such language is in bad taste. We hope this hint will have thorough thought." Were they aiming at Henry, who had not yet spoken when the comment appeared, or perhaps at his predecessor?

This summer the Society will change its time-table for

membership renewals from a quarterly to a simpler, less expensive annual one, meaning that under the new time-table all members will receive renewal notices at the same time each year. (This will not apply to life members, of course, because they do not renew their memberships. Members who have paid multi-year memberships will not be effected until the last full year for which they paid.) The Board of Directors will decide what time of year the memberships will be due. (Your secretary has recommended that renewal notices be sent out in late October or early November.) We will report the Board's decision in the next bulletin.

We trust everyone enjoyed the Henderson article above and will appreciate the irony of the following note: You can send electronic-mail messages to your secretary at Internet address endeand@ecuvm.cis.ecu.edu and to your president at Internet address n270031@univscvm.csd.scarolina.edu. So far seven of the thirteen nominees for next year's Board of Directors are on Internet. If you subscribe to America On-Line, CompuServe, or any other electronic network, you can send messages to Internet across electronic gateways. Contact your network's customer-service representative for more information.

Malcolm Ferguson (1489 Main Street, Concord, MA 01742) is collecting books with decorative covers and would be interested in hearing from anyone who might have a copy of George P. Lathrop's collection of poems, *Dreams and Days*.

Thoreauvian Jack Borden and his interest in the sky are the subjects of the cover article in the April 1994 *Smithsonian Magazine*.

We are very grateful to the Walden Woods Project for placing an attractive full-page advertisement about the Society in its newsletter, *The Forest Walker*, at no charge. The newsletter was mailed to over 16,000 individuals and organizations, and has resulted in many new members to the Society.

The Society has membership application forms that we would like to see circulated to non-members who might be interested in joining the Society. Contact your secretary (see address in box below) to get a supply of application forms, and please specify approximately how many forms you would like.

The Thoreau Society, Inc. is an informal gathering of students and admirers of Henry David Thoreau. Joel Myerson, president; Eric Parkman Smith, treasurer; Bradley P. Dean, secretary. Dues: \$20; students \$10; family \$35; benefactor \$100; life \$500. The Society maintains an educational and retail center, the Thoreau Lyceum, at 156 Belknap Street, Concord, MA 01742, tel: (508) 369-5912; and an administrative center in the Department of English at East Carolina University. Address communications to the secretary at the Thoreau Society, Inc., Department of English, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858-4353, tel: (919) 355-0620, fax: (919) 355-5280.